

CURB ON RETIRING OF POLICE URGED

Wallstein Attacks Practice of
Carrying Men on Sick List
for Long Periods.

REPORT SENT TO MAYOR

Commissioner of Accounts Leonard M. Wallstein has forwarded to Mayor Mitchell a report of an investigation made at the request of Commissioner Woods, into the work of the police surgeons and the retirement of policemen for disability. He finds two conditions that involve, in his opinion, needless expense to the city and he proposes to prepare legislative measures to remedy them. One of these is the retirement of policemen still able to earn substantial incomes and the other is the carrying of men ineligible for retirement on the sick list for months or years until they do become eligible.

Under the city charter the Police Commissioner must retire a man who has served twenty years and who is so disabled as to be unfit for any police duty whatever. If a man has served ten years he may be retired if so disabled as to be fit for only light work. Unless a man has served ten years he cannot be retired for disability unless that disability resulted from the performance of his duty.

It has been found that many men retired because of disability for police duty get jobs either in or out of the public service which pay them from \$600 to \$1,800 a year. Commissioner Wallstein thinks that such men should not be retired, but should be employed in the city service, notably as court attendants, while their right to get a pension eventually should be preserved. This would enable the city to get and to pay for its services "in another department to which he could be assigned, the place and the salary of which would be transferred from the budget of the Police Department to that of the department to which the pensioner is assigned."

"The complete discarding of partially incapacitated individuals," says Commissioner Wallstein, "is in itself a wasteful system. But the addition of a pension to the loss of valuable work which can be done by many slightly disabled men makes the economy of the present method even worse." Coming to the men who have served less than ten years and are therefore not eligible for retirement, although unable to do police duty, the Commissioner of Accounts says that there are several patrolmen who are permanently and totally disabled and who must be carried on the sick list at half pay until eligible because their disability cannot be directly traced to the performance of their duty and because a policeman can be dismissed only for insanity or misconduct. For these he recommends legislation that will permit retirement, at any time, on a small pension graded according to the length of service.

To keep the patrolmen in good condition physicians have recommended instruction in health matters, regular exercise in addition to patrol work and a periodic physical examination of each member of the force.

WRIT FOR GIRL IN CONVENT.

Mother Says Daughter Has
Changed Mind About Being a Nun.

An application for a writ of habeas corpus to bring about the release from a convent of a young woman who wanted to be a nun and then, it is alleged, changed her mind will be heard before Supreme Court Justice Clegg today. The proceeding was brought by Mrs. Maria Buccellato of 328 West Eleventh street, a widow, in behalf of her daughter, Angelina, 20 years old.

The petition states that the young woman is detained at the Sacred Heart Convent at Fort Washington avenue and 150th street by the Mother Superior. It is alleged that the authorities at the convent are falsely representing that Miss Buccellato intends to take the vows as a missionary sister of the Sacred Heart.

Mrs. Buccellato says that her daughter has pleaded to be taken home.



It strikes us that lots of young men from prep school and college are in town over the holiday.

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FEAR TO OPERATE ON ROBERTS BABY

Four Specialists Decide to De-
lay Action Until Infant
Is Stronger.

FATHER GIVES CONSENT

Four distinguished surgeons and physicians, specialists in the treatment of infants, decided yesterday not to operate at once on the crippled girl baby born to Mrs. Joseph E. Roberts of 159 East Seventy-second street on Tuesday night. If an operation is performed it will be when the infant has gained greater strength. Mr. Roberts said he would leave his baby entirely in the care of the surgeons.

It was a dreary Thanksgiving Day for the Roberts family. Mr. Roberts, hollow eyed and haggard from lack of sleep and worry, watched most of the day at the bedside of his wife, who is very ill—400 sick to be told anything but that the baby is at the hospital for a slight operation. The two healthy children, 6 and 12 years old, sat silent in another room, not playing because their mother had to be quiet.

At the hospital yesterday afternoon a consultation was held by Dr. Robert Abbe, Dr. William A. Downes, Dr. Heuel B. Kimball and Dr. L. Emmet Holt. The four doctors decided that an operation at present would probably result in the death of the baby. The following statement was given out by the hospital:

"The infant is suffering from a not uncommon malformation of the spinal column and spinal cord technically known as spina bifida, with complete paralysis of the lower half of the body. In only the milder grades of this deformity is the condition amenable to surgical treatment, and such treatment is regularly given. In the more severe grades of malformation such as here exists and in the child's present condition it is our unanimous opinion that no operation is justifiable. It would probably shorten the child's life."

The statement is signed by all four of the doctors, the first two being eminent surgeons and the latter two being equally distinguished physicians. Mr. Roberts left the bedside of his wife for a short visit to the hospital in the afternoon. He found that the condition of the little sufferer was much the same as on the day before. The little girl is perfectly formed above the waist, but the spine is closed over the spinal cord only down to the lumbar vertebrae, leaving the rest of the cord nearly exposed and causing complete paralysis below the waist. The legs are deformed, the knee joints being stiff and the feet clubbed.

Dr. Maurice Rosenberg, a specialist and visiting surgeon of the People's Hospital, who was present at the birth of the baby and worked over the child for an hour to preserve its life, reiterated his belief yesterday that the child would die within a few days unless an operation is performed.

As for the police surgeons, it is recommended that a rule be adopted prohibiting them from treating the families of policemen for profit and also that there should be a reorganization of the medical service in the Police Department so that it may be combined with the forces of the Health Department. Commissioner Wallstein says in conclusion that a re-examination of police pensioners has substantially confirmed the original findings of the police surgeons and that there is no evidence that patrolmen have been retired for financial considerations.

MAYOR MITCHEL COULDN'T STAY AWAY. Thanksgiving Day and the lure of home cooking was too much to withstand, and the camera caught the city's head as he was leaving Roosevelt Hospital for his home yesterday. He was operated on for appendicitis on November 15, just ten days ago.



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MAYOR, HOME, SAMPLES THANKSGIVING DINNER

Mayor Mitchell spent Thanksgiving Day at home.

Leaving his room at Roosevelt Hospital at 12:30 P. M., he was wheeled to the automobile entrance. There he arose and enjoyed the longest walk he has taken since he entered the hospital for his operation on November 15. Leaving on the arms of a nurse and of Dr. Woodruff L. Post he walked twenty feet to his automobile. The nurse and Dr. Post accompanied the Mayor to his home in the Peter Stuyvesant Apartments on Riverside Drive.

The trip tired the convalescent a little, but, after sleeping most of the afternoon, he received President McAneny of the Board of Aldermen and said he felt first rate. Mrs. Mitchell, with the physicians' consent, permitted him to sample nearly everything on the holiday dinner table.

The Mayor was in the hospital only ten days. This being two days less than the usual term he had to promise that he wouldn't read a paper or do any

work yesterday after he got home. He is talking already about getting back to City Hall, but his family and friends may persuade him to go to the country for a week after resting for several days at home.

BARK NEAR SHOALS RESCUED.

Got in Tishit Place While Dodging Foreign Cruiser.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Nov. 25.—The Italian bark St. Joseph, which ran inside the shoals off Brigantine Beach yesterday to escape capture by a foreign cruiser, which her captain declares chased her for several hours, was rescued from her dangerous position to-day by an inlet pilot.

The bark is believed to have been mistaken for a German vessel by some cruiser patrolling outside the three mile limit. After running for shore, she was forced to anchor near shoals at a dangerous point. The cruiser could not be seen to-day.

CAR FENDERS NEXT IN P. S. C. INQUIRY

Thompson Committee Expected
to-day to Tackle Big
Volumes of Testimony.

FOR BROOKLYN TROLLEYS

When the Thompson legislative committee resumes its investigation of the Public Service Commission this morning Deputy Attorney-General Merton E. Lewis hopes to have recovered sufficiently from his up-State Thanksgiving dinner to be able to approach in the proper spirit half a dozen of the largest volumes of testimony ever taken on the subject of street car fenders.

What these thousands and thousands of pages contain Mr. Lewis has at yet no accurate idea. He just knows that they all deal with a question of fenders, and having disposed of chairman McCall for the present and having driven a wedge into Commissioner Williams he is prepared to take up another matter, lead where it will. As he now understands the case—famous one in Public Service Commission annals—it will show the utter reprehensibility, unfitness for office, inefficiency, dilatoriness, venality, corruptibility and unmitigated cussedness of some one.

So far as can be learned the Public Service Commission a long time ago decided to do something for Brooklyn and finally hit upon car fenders as the proper field for its utilitarian and artistic endeavors. Whereupon notice was given that if anybody would invent a car fender that would work when it ought to work his invention would be accepted by the commission and an order would go forth compelling every surface car in the town to hitch itself to one of them.

As the story goes, a lot of public spirited gentlemen tackled the job and finally one concern evolved a contraption that couldn't help but fill the bill. When everything was ready for the installation of this improvement the Public Service Commission reversed itself and decided that Brooklyn cars didn't need any fenders.

Now, in the opinion of the Thompson legislative committee, that was no way to treat anybody that could get interested in a fender, at least that is the inference gathered from a talk with members of the committee. So, having started Judge McCall toward Albany and having warned Commissioner Williams to get his suit case packed, the committee, which has until February to make its report, proposes to make other conquests. Whether this matter will get to the investigation stage to-day or not is a problem, but it's on the calendar.

If the committee doesn't get to it to-day it will probably go over until the end of next week. Judge McCall is scheduled to appear before Gov. Whitman on Tuesday to answer the charges of the committee on which his removal from office is asked.

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(The foregoing on the Burlington Arcade floor, New Building.)

Suits at \$14.50 and \$16.50
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will cost next Spring. We were able to make a satisfactory deal with each of ten of our regular manufacturers.

Take the overcoats at \$27.50. They are made of a famous cheviot—finest loomed in America—in blue, black, Oxford. One manufacturer bought enough of it to make 750 Chesterfield overcoats for us for this sale. The price he paid was less than he is paying today. This order from us was sure. There were no selling expenses attached to it. So

the cut his profits. And, to make good the Wanamaker theory of a sale, we did likewise.

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